

Public Policy Management to Improve  
the Quality of Life of People with Disabilities

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**Abstract**

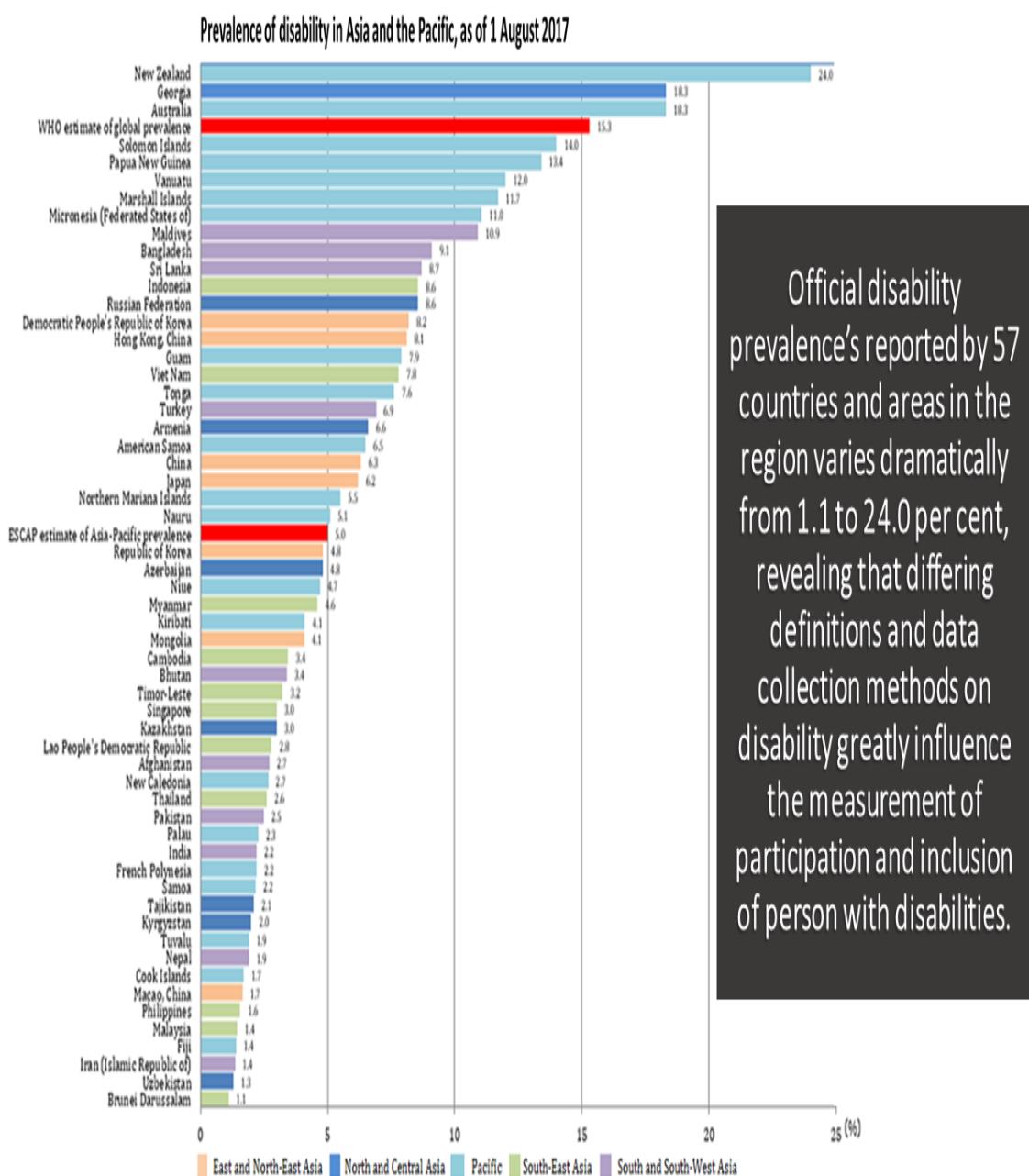
The Department of Public Welfare under the Ministry of Interior at that time and the non-governmental organizations with disabilities have recognized the importance of rights and opportunities for improving the quality of life of people with disabilities. Therefore, they have jointly pushed the law on people with disabilities. Lead to Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Act, B.E. 2007, to facilitate Disabilities accessing fundamental rights and facilities more easily and conveniently. The Avian Decade of Persons with Disabilities 2011-2020 consists of 15 main themes and is sincere to support the promotion of assistance to persons with disabilities which is considered one of the country's key public policy arrangements, especially in Thailand, which has An important part of the presentation of key issues in the ASEAN Decade of Persons with Disabilities 2011-2020 should be aware of and expedite the management of public policies relating to persons with disabilities to be clearly manifested and not merely proposed. Just a plan on a piece of paper only.

**Keywords:** Public Policy Management, The Quality of Life, People with Disabilities

**Introduction**

Astonishingly, the result of a United Nations survey found that the Asian and Pacific countries had the highest number of people with disabilities in the world. It is most often caused by poverty resulting in a lack of fertility in the pregnancies and a lack of proper nutrition to maintain the fetus directly affected. It also affects many kinds of accidents and the incidence of war; disabilities are spreading more and more widely like an epidemic that if there is no way or a way to stop it will increase every day. (Meeim, T., Mungmati, P. & Kakhean, S., 2009). The United Nations believes that if this is allowed to happen, both now and shortly, the population with disabilities will continue to increase. With this awareness, it is seeking ways to prevent and accelerate the reduction of the number of people with disabilities. The UN then proclaimed the United Nations Decade of Persons with Disabilities during the years 1983-1992 and proclaimed on December 3 of every year "It's the Day of Persons with Disabilities." This UN declaration is an important consequence of raising the awareness of countries and

organizations in all regions of the world to work together in every aspect to promote the rehabilitation and development of the capacity of people with disabilities. There is also cooperation between countries in various fields such as Prevention of disabilities or disabilities Management of various facilitation for people with disabilities, creating a better quality of life for people with disabilities, from children to adults, through mental health rehabilitation. (Department of Mental Health, 2015). Providing equal education to normal people, promoting a career, creating activities to participate in society in every aspect, such as activities that let them know how to get involved with society, culture, traditions, sports, occupations that can generate income, help themselves and not it is the burden of the family according to the skills and abilities that people with disabilities can do.



UNITED NATIONS ESCAP

**Midpoint Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities 2013-2022**

In addition, at the 18th ASEAN Leaders' Summit in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 18 May 2011, it was decided that 2011-2020 was the Asian Decade of Persons with Disabilities. Affirming the promotion of ASEAN as a people-centered community, including people with disabilities, who can participate and benefit fully from the integration of ASEAN nations. And later there was the 19th ASEAN Leaders Summit in November 2011 in Bali, Indonesia. The Bali Declaration on Promoting the Role and Participation of Persons with Disabilities in the ASEAN Community, including the Declaration of the ASEAN Decade of Persons with Disabilities 2011-2013, a period of development, promotion of the role and participation of persons with disabilities in the community ASEAN for Thailand, National Office for Promotion and Development of the Quality of Life of Persons with Disabilities (Currently, the Department of Promotion and Development of the Quality of Life of Persons with Disabilities, n.d.) has set it up as the main period for promoting the development of integrated work on persons with disabilities in ASEAN. Promoting the equal rights and opportunities of persons with disabilities in all sectors of ASEAN under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, emphasizing that issues on disabilities are relevant to the three pillars of ASEAN and it honors the ASEAN branch organizations and the existing mechanisms and protocols. The ASEAN Decade of Persons with Disabilities will use these existing mechanisms in conjunction with other initiatives to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities in ASEAN. The essence of the ASEAN Decade of Persons with Disabilities 2011-2020 consists of 15 issues, namely: (1) Awareness and protection of rights and liberties of persons with disabilities; (2) Persons with disabilities enter the mainstream in formulating policies and plans; (3) Decent employment and work; (4) Appropriate and adequate education; (5) Health care and rehabilitation, including rehabilitation by Community (6) Political participation and access to justice for persons with disabilities (7) Livelihoods, poverty alleviation and social services (8) Independent living and participation in the community (9) Children with disabilities (10) Women with disabilities (11) Elderly people with disabilities (12) Participation in culture Recreation and sports (13) Access to technology information technology information aids facilities, transportation, services (14) Building government potential; Self-reliance organizations of persons with disabilities and civil society organizations (15) Persons with disabilities in an emergency

**Background and importance**

From the fact that Thailand was a member of the United Nations in 1991, the Department of Public Welfare under the Ministry of Interior at that time and the non-governmental organizations with disabilities have recognized the importance of rights and opportunities for

improving the quality of life of people with disabilities. Therefore, they have jointly pushed the law on people with disabilities.

In 1991, the government, therefore, promulgated the Disability Rehabilitation Act 1991 and has been in force for a long time with significant. The details of assistance and rehabilitation of people with disabilities, when considered, are not comprehensive and appropriate in real-world situations and consider further improvements to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities and to prescribe provisions on benefits. And to protect people with disabilities to prevent unfair discrimination on the grounds of disability or infirmity, and should also determine public benefits and facilities and other assistance that the State should provide. Give and to promote the development of the quality of life of the disabled so that they can have a good life and can live without being a burden to others Life of Persons with Disabilities 2007 Subsequently, the Act on Promotion and Development of the Quality of Life of Persons with Disabilities (No. 2), BE 2013 was later amended. In accessing and utilizing public facilities, as well as welfare and assistance from the State, organizations with disabilities or other organizations that provide services to persons with disabilities have a role to play and improve the quality of life of people with disabilities, etc.

### Meaning and Situation of Persons with Disabilities in Thailand

1. According to the Act on Promotion and Development of the Quality of Life of Persons with Disabilities 2007 defines a disabled person is a person who is limited in the activities of daily living or social participation due to impairments in vision, hearing, movement, communication, movement, emotions, behavior, intelligence, learning, or other deficiencies, along with various obstacles and special needs to be obtained help in any way to be able to perform everyday activities or participate in society like a normal person.
2. A disability, as referred to in the United Nations Universal Declaration on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, is a person who has had a physical or mental impairment, whether since Born or not, it makes it uncertain that this person can live like a normal person, whether in any part of the body or all by himself (Journal of Social work, 1993).
3. The World Health Organization (2011) or World Health Organization states that a disabled person is a person who experiences temporary or permanent physical or mental impairment resulting in inequitable treatment of health services, education, and opportunities at work. Currently, disability is often interpreted socially rather than physically.
4. In 1993, the Leaders of the Thai Government signed, together with the leaders of the region, the Declaration of the Full Participation and Equality of Persons with Disabilities in the Asia and Pacific Region as a commitment to improving the quality of life of people with disabilities and eliminating wrong social attitudes towards people with disabilities.

This Declaration on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Thailand, approved by the Cabinet on 10 November 1998, can be summarized as follows:

**Declaration on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Thailand**

1. Persons with disabilities, having human dignity, rights and liberties shall be protected as Thai citizens under the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand and have the rights stated under this Declaration without any exceptions and without distinction of race, religion, politics, language, national origin, sex, age, or any other status.
2. People with disabilities have the right to express their opinions and participate in political activities.
3. People with disabilities have the right to participate in decision-making in all aspects of policies and programs relating to persons with disabilities at both national and local levels.
4. Persons with disabilities have the right to rehabilitative and developmental care at birth and first sight, and parents and families of persons with disabilities shall be supported by the State in all aspects to enable rehabilitation and develop people with disabilities to their full potential and following individual needs.
5. People with disabilities have the right to receive rehabilitation services so that they can live independently and at their full potential.
6. Persons with disabilities have the right and opportunity to receive a quality education at all levels and forms of educational management according to the needs of people with disabilities, on an equal footing with the general public, both in non-formal and continuing education, life without any restrictions, discrimination, discrimination, or exceptions.
7. Persons with disabilities have the right and opportunity to vocational preparation, vocational training, and all occupations to be employed or employed following their needs and abilities, for compensation and benefits advance and join trade unions without discrimination.
8. People with disabilities have the right to protection from sexual harassment. Physical and mental abuse, confinement, exploitation, or exploitation of any kind of disability, provided that legal assistance is obtained as a normal person.
9. People with disabilities have the right to live with their families, communities and participate fully in family, community, and social activities.
10. Persons with disabilities have the right to facilities, services, and assistance from the State to enable them to live in society as ordinary people.
11. People with disabilities have the right to receive publicity and publicity for their families. Communities and societies recognize and constructively understand people with disabilities, especially regarding their rights, capacities, and abilities, including the service of people with disabilities.
12. Persons with disabilities have the right to receive and access information, especially on matters related to the rights of persons with disabilities, provided that all types of media suitable for their disability are encouraged, including sign language interpreters, Bell letters, electronic media, or other special devices used for communication.

13. Persons with disabilities and their families, communities, society have the right to receive and have access to information and information so that they are fully aware of the rights outlined in this Declaration.

14. States must emphasize and implement commitments relating to persons with disabilities that have been signed or agreed upon at national and international levels.

**Situation of disabled in Thailand - 2,041,159** (National Association of the Deaf in Thailand, 2018). Peoples with disabilities who received their disability identity cards'(PWD) (3.08 percent of the population of the whole country) Persons who are male **1,068,145** (52.33%) and females **973,014** (47.67%)

**Disability** In order of percentage from high to low 1) Mobility disableds 1,015,955 persons (49.77%) 2) Hearing impaired 375,680 persons (18.41%) 3) Visually impaired 204,012 persons (9.99%) 4) Physically impaired 151,329 persons (7.41%) 5) Psychologic disorders 134,996 persons (6.61%) 6) Autism 12,297 persons (0.60%) 7) Learning problems 10,133 persons (0.50%) There are 2 types: 1) More than one type of disability, 128,682 persons (6.30%) 2) Applications in process, eg. Waiting for confirmation 8,075 persons (0.40%)

**Causes of disabilities:** 1) No given causes, or unidentified by doctors 59.75% 2) Congenital disability (present from birth) 15.87% 3) Caused by accidents 11.30% 4) Post birth developed causes (coronary artery disease/spinal cord disease/infection/diabetes/epilepsy) 7.67% 5) More than one of the causes from above 4.69% 6) Hereditary (genetically from elders) 0.72

**Analytical definition by age and disability type:** 1) Persons in the age range 15 - 60 years 882,576 persons (46.26%) 2) Persons 60 years and older 1,109,281 persons (51.97%)

3) People with disabilities between the ages 22 - 59 years with the highest rate of disability type 47.04% and the elderly (60 years and older) 55.58% 4) People with disabilities in their infancy and grow-up years have the highest ratio of intellectually disorders 29.84%

**Education for the disabled** Uneducated people with disabilities 96,077 peoples (4.71% from those who have the PWD card) are divided in the following: 1) Underaged for study (preschool age) 6,640 (6.91%) 2) Peoples who has (already) reached the age of education 89,437 (93.09%) 3) ... of whom are elderly peoples (Aged 60 and up) 33,587 (83.49%)

**Educated people with disabilities** 1,231,999(from those who have the PWD card) are divided in the following: 1) Primary education 1,167,780 (94.79%) 2) Secondary education 25,518 (2.07%) 3) non-Formal education (outside school) 16,444 (1.33%) 4) Lower primary education 8,779 (0.71%) 5) Diploma or Certificate level 5,179 (0.42%) 6) Undergraduate level 4,295 (0.35%) 7) Postgraduate level 3,273 (0.26%) 8) Other minor certifications 767 (0.06%)

**People with disabilities who has reached the age for working**

Aged 15 - 60 years 882,576 peoples: 1) Employed peoples 218,392 (24.74%) 2) Unemployed peoples who are able to work 156,905 (17.78%) 3) Unable to work (Due to the grade of their

disability) 59,712 (6.77%) 4) No occupational information are given by 447,567 peoples (50.71%)

**Occupations of working peoples:** 1) Agriculture business 25.79% 2) General business 24.66% 3) Private business / self-employed 6.67% 4) Private sector 4.69% 5) Civil and/or other state enterprises 0.36% 6) Other / Unspecified 37.83%

The benefits that many countries provide for people with disabilities it is well known that every country has a wide range of people with disabilities as mentioned above. As a normal person, by providing all forms of public services for the convenience of persons with disabilities and ensuring equal rights in the dignity of the people, the rights of persons with disabilities shall be Human rights in all aspects such as civilized architecture, economic, social, political, judicial process, legal rehabilitation, employment rehabilitation, etc. We would like to present countries that provide care for people with disabilities and promote people with disabilities to have an equal quality of life with normal people. Each country has similarities and or some countries may have some differences, but all countries will provide priority to people with disabilities based on their availability or possibility each aspect has different strengths as follows:

### **1. Civilized Architecture (Universal Design)**

In terms of Civilized Architecture (Universal Design), it is the design and development of infrastructure, services, and products to be able to support all groups of people in society equally, whether they are the elderly. People with disabilities or those who can live a daily life are different from the general public due to physical limitations, the key is design, comfort, safety, etc.

Civilized Architecture is therefore an important tool in creating equal opportunities in the basics of people of all ages and physical health in society and the nation, which is considered a democratic concept where everyone has equal rights together and lives together happily.

In terms of Civilized Architecture, the United States of America is a liberal democratic country. People in the country, therefore, have characteristics that adhere to the principles of fairness and equal rights as important for their lives. The government, therefore, has to pay attention and care for people of all genders and ages, especially people with disabilities. And it is commendable that Americans will strictly respect the rights of people with disabilities, such as seats in public places, airports, public transports with symbols for people with disabilities, disabled toilets, and handicapped parking on site. Various public areas that normal people may not be able to use Pedestrians are marked with ramps for wheelchair users, seats for sports viewing, theater seats, and parks with areas for people with disabilities to engage in activities with normal people, etc.

As for this Civilized Architecture, Japan is another country that places importance on this aspect for people with disabilities. Both in terms of daily life that are convenient for traveling on foot, such as making ramps, etc. Development and improvement of various buildings as

well as public transport in all aspects whether it is a bus, train station, subway station, elevator service up and down. Toilets are equipped with Bell letters in public places so that people with disabilities can read and understand travel directions, for example.

## 2. Education

England is considered to be a very supportive country in education for people with disabilities. The main objective of the United Kingdom is that education will empower people with disabilities to have their potential and live like normal people. You can apply for government scholarships or get scholarships from universities. Universities that accept people with disabilities will provide excellent care in every aspect. Both in terms of living, physical health, and mental health. Importantly, there is a development of teaching and learning systems to benefit and facilitate the disabled.

## 3. Labor

Australia is a country that promotes and encourages people with disabilities to work in liberties. The dignity and equal opportunity of all people must be equal and there is a law not to prevent the employment of people with disabilities. Australia is considered one of the countries with a high number of people with disabilities who are productive and successful in their work. Australian policy supports wages labor for all entrepreneurs who employ people with disabilities to work.

Public policies in each country mainly focus on promoting and improving the quality of life of people with disabilities in all aspects so that people with disabilities have a place in society and can support themselves and their families.

In Thailand, to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities, 5 strategic plans for the development of the quality of life of the disabled have been driven during 1997-2021.

The 5th National Quality of Life Development Plan for Persons with Disabilities, 2017 - 2021, sets out the vision “People with disabilities have access to real rights, independent living In society, we live in peace and happiness together in a sustainable way.” Under the Strategy of Equality (EQUAL), which is to empower people with disabilities and disabled people's organizations to have their potential and strength. (Empowerment) Improve the quality of management, eliminate discrimination for people with disabilities to have access to their rights (Quality Management) Promote understanding and creative attitudes towards people with disabilities and disabilities (Understanding) Create an environment and public services that everyone can access and use. (Accessibility) Promote the integration of networks and create participation for the sustainable development of the quality of life of the disabled (Linkage) to drive the National Plan for the Development of the Quality of Life of Persons with Disabilities No. 5 2017 - 2021 Effectively , the National Council for the Promotion and Development of the Quality of Life of Persons with Disabilities has therefore focused on participation and full integration of cooperation from all sectors, both the government sector. The private sector and civil society comprise organizations, associations, foundations,

educational institutions. Including giving opportunities Honor and encouragement for people with disabilities to maintain human dignity Promoting equality, fairness, inclusiveness, and access to and exploitation of rights.

From the 5th National Development Plan for the Quality of Life of Persons with Disabilities, 2017-2021, it can be seen that people with disabilities are given great importance. A private foundation was established to assist people with disabilities in many areas, but it must be acknowledged that in reality, the rights of people with disabilities are not equal to that of normal people in almost every aspect. The concrete remains more abstract and the differences can be seen in comparison to the rights of persons with disabilities in foreign countries.

### Conclusion

There is probably no country in the world that wants to increase the number of people with disabilities. No one would deny that there are people with disabilities in their country, but when all countries still have people with disabilities, the most important thing that can be done is to make people with disabilities normal people in a society that, if every member country remembers the essence.

The Avian Decade of Persons with Disabilities 2011-2020 consists of 15 main themes and is sincere to support the promotion of assistance to persons with disabilities which is considered one of the country's key public policy arrangements, especially in Thailand, which has An important part of the presentation of key issues in the ASEAN Decade of Persons with Disabilities 2011-2020 should be aware of and expedite the management of public policies relating to persons with disabilities to be clearly manifested and not merely proposed. Just a plan on a piece of paper only.

### Suggestion

The Disability Rehabilitation Act B.E. 1991 was issued. Later, it was repeated and the quality of Life Promotion Act of the Disabled B.E. Persons with Disabilities Act 2008 or the government's ratification of the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (CRPD) under the supervision of the United Nations (Human Rights of the High Commission). Some Thai people are qualified and have been elected as directors.

But by the concrete reality, in the year 2021, the Department of Promotion and Development of the Quality of Life of Persons with Disabilities. The Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, which is the main government agency directly responsible for has been allocated an annual budget. of only 827 million baht, approximately which is more than 264 million baht for personnel expenditures; Deducting the balance to support the living welfare of more than 2 million people with disabilities as mentioned above may not be enough for sure, although now the disabled will receive a living allowance of about 800 baht per month.

Let's think about it. What can 800 baht per month of living expenses do? In reality, life is certainly not enough, and it is also an inevitable burden to caregivers and families.

Therefore, the government should promote, support, and provide assistance to people with disabilities concretely and continuously to be consistent with the Bali Declaration on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Justice following the principles of global human rights as follows:

1. Propose the promotion of the quality of life of people with disabilities as a national agenda in the formulation of public policies that will provide assistance, support, and improvement of the quality of life for persons with disabilities to have equal rights as the normal people, as reflected in the Decade of Quality of Life Development for 15 issues. Persons with Disabilities in ASEAN 2011-2020 as detailed in the introduction such as protection of rights and liberties of persons with disabilities, facilitation of civilization, education, etc. And not only is the National Day of Persons with Disabilities announced as the 2nd Saturday of November every year as just a symbol, but the government should always value people with disabilities every day and make every issue truly visible.
2. States should provide welfare for the disabled by requesting that the budget be allocated sufficiently to support the disabled, not for the construction of buildings or for expenditures for personnel who work too much.
3. The government must support education for all types of people with disabilities and open specialized schools for each type of handicapped in every province. To provide people with disabilities the same educational opportunities as normal people.
4. The government must provide vocational training according to the abilities of people with disabilities to be able to make a living for themselves and must require government agencies and the private sector to support the employment of people with disabilities under the Act on Promotion and Development of the Quality of Life of Persons with Disabilities. 2007 Article 33 stipulates that establishments with 100 or more employees: 1 person with disabilities. In fact, an establishment will choose a method of remittance to the Disabled Fund rather than recruiting people with disabilities to work. This is an exception that most establishments choose to deprive people with disabilities about the same right to work as normal people. Governments should not have such an option for enterprises, and even government agencies should recruit people with disabilities who are able to work as a practical example.
5. The government should provide assistance with benefits and protection for people with disabilities, such as the disability pension that is currently very low and cannot be used for livelihood. In addition, the government should allocate loans for people with disabilities in order to have capital for occupation and pay installments without interest, etc.
6. Civilized Architecture which is an important issue Governments must enact public facilitation laws, means of transport, public transport services in the areas of buildings, premises, restrooms, car parks, commuter elevators. Roadsides that must be able to make the

handicapped comfortable, have ramps for wheelchairs, have special roads that allow the visually impaired to travel on foot. The use of electric trains should have escalators or elevators available in all places where Code of conduct is the rule. The regulations of the world exist but in fact these conveniences are legal, but operators such as train stations neglect to comply with the regulations which governments must take the law seriously as civilized countries or other countries practice.

7. Encourage the society to have compassion and help the disabled, not insulting the dignity, but instead giving the value and awareness that they do not know when we may have some disability. The government must use the media to promote equal rights and help each other in society.
8. Access to all information the government must manage all communication systems for people with disabilities, the benefits, and benefits that people with disabilities have.

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